

City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

IRVIN CORLEY, JR.
FISCAL ANALYST
(313) 224-1076

FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 218
Detroit, Michigan 48226
FAX: (313) 224-2783
E-Mail: cc-fiscal@ci.detroit.mi.us

ANNE MARIE LANGAN
ASSISTANT FISCAL ANALYST
(313) 224-1078

TO: Deborah Gaskin, Director
Board of Ethics

FROM: Irvin Corley, Jr., Fiscal Analysis

DATE: May 1, 2006

RE: 2006-07 Budget Analysis

24.

Attached is our budget analysis regarding your department's budget for the upcoming 2006-2007 Fiscal Year.

Please be prepared to respond to the issues/questions raised in our analysis during your scheduled hearing. We would then appreciate a written response to the issues/questions at your earliest convenience subsequent to your budget hearing. Please forward a copy of your responses to the Councilmembers and the City Clerk's Office.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding our budget analysis.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

IC:cyb

Attachment

cc: Councilmembers
Council Divisions
Auditor General's Office
Roger Short, Interim Chief Financial Officer
Pamela Scales, Budget Department Director
Ron Chenault, Budget Department Team Leader
Kandia Milton, Mayor's Office

Board of Ethics

FY 2006-07 Budget Analysis by the Fiscal Analysis Division

In charter Sec. 2-106. Standards of Conduct, the Board of Ethics is established as: "An independent board of ethics is created. The board of ethics shall consist of seven (7) members:

- A. Seven (7) members of the public:
 - 1. Three (3) who shall be appointed by the city council;
 - 2. Three (3) who shall be appointed by the mayor; and
 - 3. One (1) who shall be jointly appointed by the mayor and city council;

"The board of ethics shall issue advisory opinions regarding the meaning and application of provisions of the Charter, city ordinances or other laws or regulations establishing standards of conduct for elective officers, appointees, or employees. Advisory opinions shall be rendered upon written request by an elective officer, appointee, or employee. Advisory opinions shall be published by the board annually in a report to the mayor and city council. The opinions shall not disclose the identity of the elective officers, appointees, or employees concerned."

The funding for the Board of Ethics is included in the Non-Departmental Agency Appropriation 10397 Board of Ethics. The 2006-07 recommended budget is \$247,027. The Board of Ethics was inadvertently excluded from the Budget in 2005-06. This charter mandated board, however, remained operational and was added to the budget by Budget amendment mid-fiscal year (September 2005).

Funding level for the Board of Ethics appropriation in 2006-07 is based on the actual cost history for (\$237,000 in FY 2004-05), and some allowance for increased personnel costs.

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS:

- 1. The Board of Ethics staff moved into its permanent location, 660 Woodward Avenue – First National Building, in July 2004, and became fully operational in August – September 2004. Could you highlight some of the accomplishments and activities completed since the move?
- 2. The Board of Ethics has produced 4 annual reports to date the last one being May 18, 2005. When will the next annual be submitted by the Board of Ethics?

3. Does the Board of Ethics have any initiatives planned to increase City of Detroit employees and citizen's awareness of the Board of Ethics and the service it provides? Can you describe the planned initiatives?
4. Can you briefly summarize the most significant advisory opinions that the Board of Ethics has addressed since its inception? What were the most significant advisory opinions over the past fiscal year?
5. **PG 35-8** In performance measures, the Board Of Ethics indicates that 7 training programs have been conducted in 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. Who are these training programs conducted for? Are there any planned training activities for the general public?
6. **PG 35-8** Also in performance measures, the Board Of Ethics indicates the number of matters concluded within the time prescribed by ordinance at 10 in 2003-04, and 5-10 in the three subsequent fiscal years. Why has this measures output changed from 10 to 5-10?
7. Are you aware of any public or private funding sources to help finance your activities?
8. Is the Ethics Ordinance adequate in its current form, or would you recommend any changes?
9. How much activity does the Board of Ethics address in a fiscal year, such as responding to inquiries, hearings investigations and Advisory Opinions?
10. Has the Board of Ethics noticed any developing trends of unethical behavior or complaints?

IC:DH